

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 13-15 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-15 are amended by the present amendment without the introduction of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,363,228 to Ream; and Claims 2-3 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ream in view of U.S. Patent 5,452,073 to Kataoka.

Initially, Applicant and Applicant's representatives wish to thank Examiner Beatty for the personal interview on August 4, 2005. During the interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during the interview claim amendments were discussed to clarify the claims over the applied art. The present response sets forth the discussed claim amendments. Examiner Beatty indicated that the proposed amendment appeared to define over the combination of references applied to the claims, and that the Examiner would further consider the claims and perform an additional search when the amendment is filed. Moreover, based on the result of the interview, additional amendments are made to clarify subject matter recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to further distinguish over the applied references.

Addressing the anticipatory rejection based on Ream, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Independent Claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify the features of correction data as follows:

a correction data storage unit configured to store correction data for color difference and position difference including fixedly pre-stored measurement data based on the plural reference marks of the transfer belt, wherein *the correction data is a travel speed averaged on plural blocks of the*

transfer belt divided perpendicularly with respect to a travel direction of the transfer belt; ...

wherein when the detecting unit detects that the detachable transfer belt unit is detached and reattached or replaced with another detachable transfer belt unit with the same configuration, ***the correction data stored in the correction data storage unit is transferred to the data storage unit.***

Support for the additional recitations is found in the present specification at page 8, lines 16-20, and page 10, lines 2-6. Referring to the non-limiting embodiment shown in Figs. 2 and 3, when the time until the transfer belt (165) makes a turn is denoted by T, it is assumed that an average speed in the first block after the reference point M has passed the sensor 166 is v_1 , an average speed in the next block is v_2 , and so on to obtain N average speed data. As a result, N average speed data v_1, v_2, \dots and v_N is obtained from N reference marks on the transfer belt (165).¹

According to the present invention recited in amended Claim 1, because the correction data is a travel speed averaged on plural blocks of the transfer belt divided perpendicularly with respect to a travel direction of the transfer belt, the correction data indicates various causes of the color and position differences resulting from the constituents of the transfer belt unit. Thus, even if the detachable transfer belt unit is replaced during the life of the color laser printer, color and position differences are efficiently and precisely corrected, taking into account the above described correction data, to produce color image outputs without performing correction procedures separately.

Such features as now clarified in independent Claim 1 are believed to distinguish over Ream.

In this regard, Ream discloses at column 11, lines 19-34 as follows:

At a first step 110, an image transfer subassembly is provided. The subassembly includes a transfer belt and a memory device. The memory device is used to store characterization data particular to the subassembly.

¹ See the present specification at page 8, lines 16-20, for example.

The next step 120 establishes a set of Transfer Operating Points for each transfer station as part of the characterization of the subassembly. The Transfer Operating Points take into account differences in the belt and transfer roll resistivity and enable the machine microcontroller to adjust the power supply settings in accordance with variations in the belt and transfer roll resistivity.

At step 130 the characterization data is stored in the memory. Accordingly, the data remains with the subassembly such that when the subassembly is installed into a printer, the associated characterization data (which may be different for each subassembly) is also maintained with the subassembly.

However, nowhere does Ream disclose or suggest that *the correction data is a travel speed averaged on plural blocks of the transfer belt divided perpendicularly with respect to a travel direction of the transfer belt*; and *the correction data stored in the correction data storage unit is transferred to the data storage unit* when the detecting unit detects that the detachable transfer belt unit is detached and reattached or replaced with another detachable transfer belt unit with the same configuration, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Therefore, Ream is not believed to anticipate the specific features recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 8 and 15 as currently written includes features substantially similar to the features recited in amended Claim 1 to the extent discussed above.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8 and 15. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, and 9, 10, 13 and 14 are considered allowable at least for the reasons advanced for Claims 1 and 8 from which they respectively depend directly or indirectly.

Application No. 10/666,255
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2005

As no other issues are pending in this application it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

GJM/SNS/HY/JM/MDA
I:\ATTY\HY\24s\242294US\242294 AME.DOC